

A high-level monthly briefing on operations and activities at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory – Home of Science and Engineering Solutions. Work at the lab supports the Department's business lines of environmental quality, energy resources, national security and science.

■ ENERGY RESOURCES – Efforts to Advance Geothermal Energy Continue

The INEEL has developed a modeling tool that allows scientists to better predict geothermal reservoir characteristics. And the lab continues to perform research and development on applications and engineering tools that increase geothermal developers' ability to efficiently operate geothermal fields and reduce electrical generation costs. The INEEL's program staff participate in the Idaho Geothermal Working group (led by the Idaho Department of Water Resources' Energy Division) and will host a geothermal direct use workshop in Boise in September 2003. After California, Idaho is the second largest user of geothermal energy in direct-use applications.

■ ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – Comments Invited on Community Relations Plan

The U.S. Department of Energy is asking for the public to comment on its draft Community Relations Plan for the INEEL Environmental Restoration Program. The plan, last updated in 1995, is a guide for the public on the opportunities to become informed and involved in the cleanup process at the lab's desert facilities related to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Liability and Compensation Act – or Superfund. Under Superfund, the DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Idaho are committed to providing the public with unbiased information to assist in making cleanup decisions. Key community concerns about DOE's public involvement process are addressed in this plan. The Community Relations Plan will be available in electronic format at (www.inel.gov/environment), or hard copies can be requested by contacting the plan coordinator at (208) 526-3183 or via e-mail at campjl@inel.gov. Comments will be taken through July 23, 2003.

■ NATIONAL SECURITY – INEEL Expertise Shared with Students

Scientists and engineers from the INEEL's National Security division have been busy sharing their passion for what they do with the next generation of researchers. As the school year wrapped up, National Security's Mike Occhionero and Kevin Young appeared on Idaho Public Television's Dialogue for Kids to show off a variety of INEEL-developed intelligence-gathering technologies, and to answer dozens of questions from students across the state. With support and materials from the laboratory, Idaho Public Television also launched a companion interactive website. The television program participation and Internet presence was supplemented with visits to area schools.

■ SCIENCE – JASON Training Offered to Gem State Teachers

Seventeen Idaho teachers were sent to Milwaukee in June by the INEEL and the Office of Naval Research to learn more about the JASON Project's multimedia curriculum, and using it to support teaching and learning needs. Highlights of the conference included presentations by world-class researchers and scientists; hands-on workshops; and technology labs designed to introduce and train educators to teach an integrated approach to life sciences, physical sciences, earth sciences, math and technology, geography, history and culture. Earlier this year, more than 7,000 Idaho middle and junior high school students participated via satellite in JASON XIV: From Shore to Sea, a hands-on scientific experience broadcast from Alaska, to learn about the mysteries of the frozen world. Overall, the Idaho JASON Project attracted 20,000 Idaho students in its yearlong science program.

For more information, contact Brad Bugger at 208-526-0833

